

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-09

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:MH VAN ORDER
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S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SANAA IMMEDIATE

USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DOHA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT AND DEPARTMENT PRESS
BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON DEATH OF KING FAISAL RELEASED BY
WHITE HOUSE MORNING MARCH 25:

"IT WAS WITH THE DEEPEST SORROW THAT I LEARNED OF THE
TRAGIC DEATH OF HIS MAJESTY KING FAISAL, A CLOSE FRIEND OF
THE UNITED STATES AND A LEADER WHO ACHIEVED SO MUCH FOR HIS
PEOPLE AND THOSE OF THE ARAB WORLD AND ISLAM, AND WHOSE
WISDOM AND STATURE EARNED THE RESPECT OF THE ENTIRE WORLD.
ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE I WISH TO EXTEND MY
DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE ROYAL FAMILY AND TO THE PEOPLE OF
SAUDI ARABIA, WHOSE GRIEF WE SHARE.
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2. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS A STATE-
MENT AND EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEF-
ING MARCH 25, 1975:

QUOTE: MR. ANDERSON: "IT WAS WITH THE GREATEST SORROW
THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE LEARNED OF THE DEATH OF HIS
MAJESTY KING FAISAL. AS YOU KNOW, THE SECRETARY HAD THE
HONOR OF AN AUDIENCE WITH THE KING ONLY LAST WEDNESDAY.
IT WAS THE LAST OF MANY MEETINGS DURING WHICH THE
SECRETARY HAD COME TO RELY ON HIS MAJESTY'S WISE COUNSELS
IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

"HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED. THE SECRETARY FEELS THAT THIS

PERSONAL BOND WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR CONTINUING CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND THE UNITED STATES. HE HAS SENT MESSAGES EXPRESSING HIS DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO THE ROYAL FAMILY AND THE PEOPLE OF SAUDI ARABIA."

Q. IS THERE ANY CONSIDERATION OF THE SECRETARY ATTENDING THE FUNERAL?

A. ON THIS, WE'VE HAD, QUITE NATURALLY, A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ON -- LET ME PUT IT THIS WAY -- THE QUESTION OF FOREIGN REPRESENTATION AT THE FUNERAL. I HAVE NOTHING ON THAT FOR YOU. OUR EMBASSY IS IN TOUCH WITH THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT ON THIS QUESTION, AND WE DO NOT YET KNOW WHAT THE DESIRES OF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT ARE IN THIS REGARD. AS SOON AS I HAVE ANYTHING ON THIS, EITHER HERE ... OR MORE PROBABLY THE WHITE HOUSE, OBVIOUSLY, WILL ADDRESS ITSELF TO THIS QUESTION. BUT WE'RE JUST WAITING AT THE MOMENT TO GET WORD BACK FROM OUR EMBASSY IN JIDDA.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY ASSESSMENT AS TO WHETHER THE UNITED STATES REGARDS THE DEATH OF KING FAISAL AT THIS POINT IN THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AS AN ADDITIONAL HAZARDOUS FACTOR?

A. NO. WE HAVE NO ASSESSMENT ON THIS QUESTION. I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE ON THIS SUBJECT AT THIS TIME.

Q. YOU'RE NOT SAYING NO HAZARD; YOU'RE JUST SAYING NO UNCLASSIFIED

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ASSESSMENT. IS THAT IT?

A. WE HAVE NO ASSESSMENT.

Q. YOU'RE NOT RULING OUT, ARE YOU, THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES WOULD ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF ANOTHER HEAD OF STATE?

A. I JUST DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE. IN VIEW OF WHAT I JUST SAID, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THE WISHES OF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT MAY BE IN THIS REGARD. IT'S NOT UP TO ME TO SPECULATE ON WHAT MAY BE DONE IN THIS REGARD. I THINK

WE'LL FIND OUT IN DUE COURSE FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, DEPENDING UPON THE WISHES OF THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT.

Q. HAVE YOU ANY REASON TO CHALLENGE THE ACCURACY OF THE PRESS REPORT THAT SAYS THAT THE ASSASSINATION WAS DONE BY A DERANGED NEPHEW OF THE KING? IS THERE ANY SUGGESTION THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING MORE TO IT THAN THAT?

A. I JUST DON'T WANT TO --- I THINK IT WOULD BE HIGHLY INAPPROPRIATE FOR ME TO COMMENT OR SPECULATE ON WHAT HAS

HAPPENED THERE RIGHT NOW REALLY. I JUST HAVE NOTHING TO SAY ON IT.

Q. WHAT IS THE SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF THE SECRETARY'S MEETINGS THIS AFTERNOON WITH AMBASSADORS DINITZ AND GHORBAL?

A. POINT 1: OBVIOUSLY, I'LL SEE IF I CAN GET A READOUT ON BOTH MEETINGS.

THE ONLY THING I CAN TELL YOU ON BOTH OF THEM: THE SECRETARY IS MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DINITZ AT 4:00 AND AMBASSADOR GHORBAL AT 5:30, AT THE REQUEST OF THE TWO AMBASSADORS. THAT'S ALL I HAVE. I DON'T HAVE THE SUBSTANCE OF IT. LET'S SEE IF I CAN GET YOU SOMETHING FOLLOWING. BUT IT IS AT THE REQUEST OF THE TWO AMBASSADORS.

Q. COULD YOU ELABORATE AT ALL ON THE REASSESSMENT OF U.S. UNCLASSIFIED

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IN THE MIDDLE EAST -- SPECIFICALLY, WHETHER THE REPORTS THAT THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WILL BE CONDUCTING THE STUDY THAT WILL BE PREPARED WITHIN THREE OR FOUR WEEKS ARE CORRECT -- AND, ALSO, WHETHER OR NOT, IF YOU CAN ELABORATE ON YOUR STATEMENTS YESTERDAY REGARDING A LOOK INTO AID TOWARDS ISRAEL?

A. A VERY SHORT ANSWER TO YOUR RATHER LONG QUESTION IS: NO, I CAN NOT ELABORATE.

I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY THAN WHAT I SAID YESTERDAY, WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID YESTERDAY FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE.

AND, ABOVE ALL, I'M NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON WHAT THE NATURE OF THE REASSESSMENT IS GOING TO BE. THE DIRECTIVES FOR THIS REASSESSMENT WILL PROBABLY BE PUT OUT IN A DAY OR TWO. I'M NOT IN ANY POSITION TO MAKE ANY PREDICTIONS OR MAKE ANY SPECULATION, AND I'LL JUST LEAVE IT THERE.

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "DIRECTIVES WILL BE PUT OUT IN A DAY OR TWO"?

A. WELL, DIRECTIVES WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT THE REASSESSMENT. AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE DIRECTIVES ARE GOING TO BE AT ALL. SO IT WOULD BE FUTILESS, REALLY, FOR ME TO SPECULATE, AND INAPPROPRIATE.

Q. WILL THE DOCUMENTS BE NSSM DOCUMENTS?

A. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT THESE DIRECTIVES TO BE POLICY GUIDE-LINES?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T WANT TO SPECULATE ON SOMETHING THAT HASN'T TAKEN PLACE YET.

Q. THERE WAS A REPORT THIS MORNING TO THE EFFECT THAT THE SECRETARY SENT A MESSAGE TO 30 COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE UNCLASSIFIED

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EAST EXPLAINING THE BREAKDOWN OF THE INITIATIVE WITH ISRAEL AND EGYPT; AND THEY DESCRIBE IT AS BEING IN VERY GENERALIZED TERMS. BUT HE GAVE FULL CREDIT TO SADAT TO SEEK A COMPROMISE, WHILE REMAINING SILENT ON ISRAEL'S POSITION.

IS THIS ALL TRUE, OR PART OF IT TRUE? WHAT'S TRUE, WHAT'S FALSE?

A. LET ME JUST MAKE THIS ONE COMMENT HERE -- I'LL MAKE TWO COMMENTS.

THE SECRETARY DID COMMUNICATE, OBVIOUSLY, WITH A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS MISSION TO THE MIDDLE EAST.

NOW, BY THE NATURE OF YOUR QUESTION, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE GO BACK TO THIS BUSINESS AGAIN OF TRYING TO INDICATE THAT BLAME WAS PLACED ON ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER. I JUST WANT TO REPEAT WHAT I BELIEVE THE SECRETARY HAS SAID; I HAVE SAID IT: THERE'S NO QUESTION OF PLACING ANY BLAME ON EITHER SIDE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT. THAT IS NOT THE POINT. BOTH SIDES MADE A VERY SERIOUS EFFORT, AS THE STATEMENT WHICH I ISSUED IN JERUSALEM SAID. AND I JUST DON'T THINK THAT I CAN COMMENT ANY FURTHER. I DON'T THINK I CAN BE ANY CLEARER ON IT.

Q. DID THE MESSAGE TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS CONTAIN THE SAME THOUGHTS -- THAT THE SECRETARY WAS NOT ASSESSING BLAME ON EITHER SIDE?

A. I'M NOT GOING TO GET INTO THE COMMUNICATIONS THAT HE SENT TO THE OTHER GOVERNMENTS AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS MISSION.

Q. IS THE FIGURE OF 30 IN THE BALLPARK OF THE NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS THAT HE COMMUNICATED WITH?

A. ROUGHLY, BUT I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW THE EXACT NUMBER.

Q. DO YOU DENY THE STORY?

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A. I'VE COMMENTED ON THE STORY AND I REALLY DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER COMMENT TO MAKE.

Q. THEN YOU DO NOT DENY IT?

A. I'M NOT SAYING ANYTHING FURTHER ON THIS QUESTION OF TRYING TO PLACE BLAME ON ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER, WHICH IS JUST NOT TRUE.

Q. COULD YOU SIMPLY TELL US WHETHER THE STORY IS CORRECT THAT IMPLICITLY BLAME WAS PLACED ON ISRAEL BY SIMPLY HAVING NO COMMENT ABOUT ISRAEL AND A COMMENT ABOUT SADAT'S EFFORTS TOWARDS PEACE? COULD YOU JUST CLEAR UP THAT ONE POINT?

A. I CAN NOT CONFIRM THAT SPECIFIC POINT ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. ALL I'M TELLING YOU IS THAT THE SECRETARY, AT NO TIME, IS PLACING BLAME ON ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER AT ALL.

Q. WELL, THAT THEN SAYS THAT THAT STORY IS INACCURATE IN THAT ONE POINT; BUT THAT DOESN'T PLACE BLAME THAT THAT PART IS WRONG, IS THAT RIGHT?

A. I WOULD ASSUME SO, YES.

Q. WHAT CONTACT HAS THERE BEEN WITH THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT, EITHER HER OR IN MOSCOW?

A. SINCE OUR RETURN?

Q. YES.

A. I'LL HAVE TO LOOK INTO IT.

Q. ARE THERE ANY PLANS FOR A MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN OR SOVIET FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO?

A. I AM UNAWARE OF ANY PLANS FOR A MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO. NOW, WHETHER THE

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SECRETARY HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN SINCE HIS RETURN -- I WILL HAVE TO CHECK INTO THAT. I JUST DON'T KNOW. I WILL LOOK INTO THAT THOUGH. I WOULD ASSUME THAT HE WOULD BE SEEING AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN AT SOME POINT.

Q. THERE'S A REPORT IN THAT A HIGH-LEVEL ISRAELI DELE-

GATION IS COMING TO WASHINGTON SOON. HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?

A. NO, I HAVEN'T. I DOESN'T MEAN IT ISN'T ACCURATE, BUT I HADN'T LOOKED INTO IT.

Q. WHAT ABOUT THIS STORY ABOUT A MAN IN THE CONSULATE IN EAST JERUSALEM SAYING THAT ARAB BUSINESSMEN IN THE WEST BANK NO LONGER HAVE TO HAVE AN ISRAELI AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE CONTRACTS WITH AMERICAN BUSINESSES OR PARTNERSHIPS, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

A. WELL, THERE'S SOME NEWS REPORT THAT WE SAY WHICH INDICATED THAT AN OFFICER OF OUR CONSULATE GENERAL IN JERUSALEM HAD BEEN ADVISING WEST BANK BUSINESSMEN TO SEVER RELATIONS WITH ISRAELI COMPANIES AND MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH UNITED STATES FIRMS. THE ONLY THING I CAN GIVE YOU ON THAT IS THAT WHEN WE SAY THIS REPORT WE GOT IN TOUCH WITH OUR CONSULATE GENERAL IN JERUSALEM, WHICH HAS ASSURED US THAT THIS REPORT IS TOTALLY INACCURATE. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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